A WARNING FOR PITTSBURGH'S WORKING FAMILIES:

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS HIT HOME

The historic impact of safety net cuts across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION
For a greater Pittsburgh.

Imagine a Pittsburgh where working parents do everything right. They work two jobs. They care for children and aging parents. They stretch every dollar. And still, they lose. Because the systems that help them survive are being stripped away. **This is not fiction.** This is the impending impact of federal budget cuts in our region.

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING AND WHEN

Safety Net Cuts (U.S.)

$1.2 TRILLION
cut from Medicaid and SNAP over 10 years to pay for a portion of new and extended tax cuts

Safety Net Cuts (PA)

$48 BILLION
projected reductions to Pennsylvania's Medicaid and SNAP funding over 10 years

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

July 2025	H.R. 1 adopted | Many immigrants lose SNAP eligibility
Oct-Nov 2025	SNAP work requirements expand | SNAP benefit reductions begin (through 2027)
Jan 2026	Enhanced ACA subsidies expire
Feb 2026	Public housing funding reduced
June 2026	HUD restricts support for Housing First approaches
Oct 2026	Many immigrants lose Medicaid eligibility
Jan 2027	Expanded Medicaid recertification requirements begin | Medicaid work requirements begin
Oct 2027	State reimbursement for SNAP administrative costs halved | Restrictions on Medicaid provider taxes begin (through 2032)
Oct 2028	States with high SNAP error rates face financial penalties

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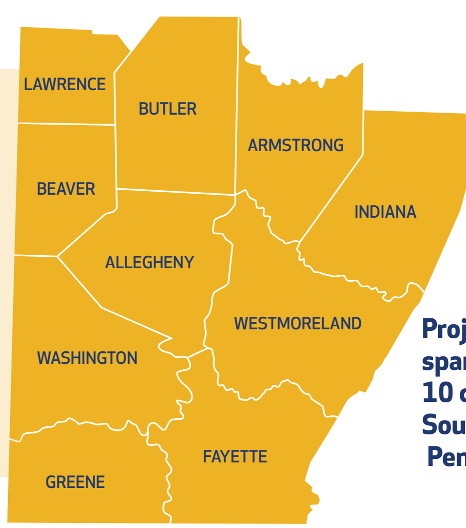

Projected impact spans these 10 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

PROJECTED LOCAL IMPACT

The consequences for our 10-county Pittsburgh region are staggering. Here's what we can anticipate.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS IN CRISIS

- **Imposes** first-ever work requirements for Medicaid
- **Eliminates** Medicaid eligibility for many legal immigrants and refugees
- **Eliminates** ACA-enhanced federal subsidies
- **54,000 local residents** lose Medicaid coverage[1]
- **$413 million annual cut** to Medicaid federal subsidies across the region
- **50–100% increase** in Pennie coverage premiums
- **29,000 local residents** have dropped Pennie coverage

When health coverage is lost, people face impossible choices between medicine and meals…

FOOD INSECURITY RISING

- **Imposes** stricter SNAP work requirements for many adults without dependent children
- **Eliminates** SNAP eligibility for many legal immigrants and refugees
- **29,000 local residents** lose SNAP benefits[1]
- **$68 million lost** in annual federal SNAP funding in SWPA
- **$80 million** in PA SNAP administration funding cancelled
- **56,000 local residents** could be impacted by further SNAP eligibility changes

When food assistance is slashed, hunger rises and housing instability grows…

HOUSING AT RISK

- **Abandons** HUD's "Housing First" approach to alleviating homelessness
- **Discontinues** smaller FHA grants for housing counseling
- **$18 million** cut from HUD's annual public housing operating fund across the region

When housing instability increases, families risk homelessness…

COMPOUNDING HARDSHIP

- **250,000 local residents** depend on Medicaid and SNAP[2]
- **55,000** of those residents also rely on federal housing assistance[2]
- **19,000** of those residents also rely on federal energy assistance[2]

When one benefit is cut, families struggle. When multiple benefits are cut, families can collapse.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

The families relying on these systems will not carry the burden of these cuts alone.

- Prescriptions go unfilled, and care is delayed
- Parents have to choose between medicine, meals and rent
- Children struggle to learn while hungry
- More neighbors face eviction, displacement or homelessness

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR ECONOMY

Federal assistance does more than help families — it underpins the stability of our local economy. When benefits disappear:

- Grocery stores lose millions in sales
- Hospitals absorb more uncompensated care
- Landlords face rising nonpayment
- Employers lose workers coping with crises
- Local governments face increased costs for emergency services

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR NONPROFITS

When families fall into crisis, our regional nonprofits will become the first — and final — line of support. Food banks. Health clinics. Emergency shelters. Your organizations. At a time when your own federal funding may also be under threat, **it will fall on you.**

You will need to prepare for increased demand, more complex client needs and growing pressure on already strained staff, funding and services.

It's not just those in need — it hurts all of us.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US.

The Pittsburgh Foundation compiled this research to help nonprofit leaders, community organizations, philanthropic partners and public officials better understand what lies ahead — and what it will mean for the people and communities we collectively serve.

This will be our region's defining challenge. **We will need to face it — together.**

SOURCES

Pittsburgh Foundation analysis of federal policy changes and projected impacts for Southwestern Pennsylvania (April 2026). Figures reflect estimates for the 10-county Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

[1] Pennsylvania Department of Human Services estimate

[2] Based on estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, "Who is Receiving Social Safety Net Benefits?" (2024)

A WARNING FOR PITTSBURGH'S WORKING FAMILIES:

DEEP SNAP CUTS THREATEN FOOD SECURITY

A hunger crisis hiding in plain sight across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION
For a greater Pittsburgh.

For hundreds of thousands of Southwestern Pennsylvania residents, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) bridges the gap between income and the rising cost of food. Proposed federal cuts and eligibility restrictions threaten to deepen food insecurity for working families, seniors, children and people with disabilities throughout our region.

Meet the Rivera Family

Elena works at a nursing home outside of Pittsburgh. Her husband picks up seasonal construction jobs. SNAP benefits bridge the gap between paychecks and rising grocery costs.

Without SNAP:

- Fresh produce disappears from the table
- Their emergency fund is exhausted
- Utility bills and rent are delayed so groceries can be purchased
- Stress becomes constant

The Rivera family still works. But their budget no longer does. Hunger becomes a part of life.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BY THE NUMBERS

360,000 / 1 in 7
Southwestern Pennsylvania residents rely on SNAP benefits

29,000 people
in Southwestern PA are projected to lose SNAP benefits

$68 million
estimated annual cut to federal SNAP benefits in Southwestern PA

PROJECTED LOCAL IMPACT

H.R. 1 cuts SNAP by over $186 billion through 2034, the largest cut in SNAP's history. Here's what we must plan for.

SHARP RISE IN FOOD INSECURITY

- **Imposes** stricter SNAP requirements for many adults without dependent children
- **Eliminates** SNAP eligibility for many legal immigrants and refugees
- **Eliminates** allowances and adjusts food price calculations in ways that trim benefits
- **29,000 local residents** lose SNAP benefits[1]
- **$68 million lost** in annual federal SNAP funding in SWPA
- **$80 million** in PA SNAP administration funding cancelled
- **Increase** in food insecurity among children, seniors and working families
- **Increase** in demand for food banks, meal programs and community organizations

COMPOUNDING HARDSHIP

- **250,000 local residents** depend on Medicaid and SNAP[2]
- **55,000** of those residents also rely on federal housing assistance[2]
- **19,000** of those residents also rely on federal energy assistance[2]

When food assistance is cut, pressure increases across every other household expense.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The people who lose food assistance aren't the only ones who feel the effects of hunger.

- Schools face increased strain supporting students' basic needs
- Students experience higher absenteeism and lower test scores
- Preventable illnesses and ER usage climbs
- Erosion of trust and stability in neighborhoods
- Food banks and community meal programs face rising demand

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR ECONOMY

The economic impact of slashing $68 million in food assistance from Southwestern Pennsylvania could be overwhelming.

- Grocery stores lose millions in sales
- Food suppliers, distributors and retailers face reduced demand
- Families have less income available for housing, transportation and other necessities
- Employers see lowered productivity and rising absenteeism
- Local governments and nonprofits face increased costs to address hunger and related hardships

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US

The Pittsburgh Foundation compiled this research to help nonprofit leaders, community organizations, philanthropic partners and public officials understand what lies ahead — and what it will mean for the people and communities we collectively serve.

How we respond to rising hunger will define our future.
We have to meet this challenge — together.

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A WARNING FOR PITTSBURGH'S WORKING FAMILIES:

THE HUMAN COST OF MEDICAID CUTS

A public health crisis in the making.

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION
For a greater Pittsburgh.

For more than half a million Southwestern Pennsylvania residents, Medicaid is the difference between receiving care and going without it. Proposed federal cuts and new eligibility restrictions threaten to leave tens of thousands without coverage, forcing families to make impossible choices.

Meet the Williams Family

Danielle works full time at a daycare center. Her husband, Casey, works part-time warehouse shifts while caring for his aging mother. Their jobs don't provide affordable health insurance, but Medicaid helps cover their child's epilepsy medication and Casey's blood pressure treatment.

Without Medicaid:

- Medications become unaffordable
- Preventive care is delayed
- Managing chronic conditions becomes impossible

Without Medicaid, every illness becomes a threat. One hospitalization could destroy everything they have worked for.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS BY THE NUMBERS

527,000 / 1 in 5
Southwestern Pennsylvania residents rely on Medicaid

132,000 / nearly 1 in 10
Region wide adults covered through ACA Medicaid expansion

$413 million
cut to Medicaid spending across Southwestern Pennsylvania

PROJECTED LOCAL IMPACT

Federal budget cuts represent some of the largest Medicaid cuts in history. Here's what we can expect.

SEISMIC SHIFTS IN MEDICAID AND FUNDING

- **Eliminates** Medicaid eligibility for many legal immigrants and refugees
- **Eliminates** ACA-enhanced federal subsidies
- **Imposes** first-ever work requirements for Medicaid (80 hours/month)
- **Doubles** Medicaid recertification requirement (from annually to every six months)
- **$413 million cut** to Medicaid spending across Southwestern PA
- **54,000 local residents** lose Medicaid coverage[1]

COMPOUNDING HARDSHIP

- **250,000 local residents** depend on Medicaid and SNAP[2]
- **55,000** of those residents also rely on federal housing assistance[2]
- **19,000** of those residents also rely on federal energy assistance[2]

When health coverage is lost, entire household support systems begin to unravel.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The people who lose coverage will not carry the burden of these cuts alone.

- Prescriptions go unfilled and preventive care is delayed
- Chronic conditions become harder and more expensive to manage
- Families face impossible choices between medicine, food and housing
- More people rely on emergency rooms instead of primary care
- Poor health outcomes place greater strain on families and caregivers

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR ECONOMY

Removing $413 million in support for health care will send shockwaves through our regional economy.

- Hospitals absorb more uncompensated care
- Community health care providers face growing financial pressure
- Employers lose workers coping with untreated health conditions
- Families have less income available for local goods and services
- Local governments face increased public health and emergency service costs

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US

The Pittsburgh Foundation compiled this research to help nonprofit leaders, community organizations, philanthropic partners and public officials understand what lies ahead — and what it will mean for the people and communities we collectively serve.

The health of our region depends on how we respond.
We will need to face this challenge — together.

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A WARNING FOR PITTSBURGH'S WORKING FAMILIES:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNDER THREAT

A housing crisis threatens stability across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION
For a greater Pittsburgh.

For thousands of Southwestern Pennsylvania families, housing assistance is what keeps a roof overhead. Proposed federal cuts and disinvestment threaten to push already-strained households into deeper instability, displacement and homelessness — even among those who are working full time.

Meet the Carter Family

Monica works full time at a grocery store in Pittsburgh. Her father, who lives with her, relies on disability income. Housing assistance helps keep their modest apartment affordable. Without it:

- Rent would consume nearly all monthly income
- Utilities would quickly fall behind
- Medical, food and housing costs would compete for survival
- One emergency could trigger eviction

They are not seeking better housing. They are trying to keep the one they have.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY THE NUMBERS

900-1,000
additional affordable housing units each year could be built across Southwestern Pennsylvania

$18 million
cut from HUD's annual public housing operating funds for Southwestern Pennsylvania

$50 million
Housing First anti-homelessness services in western Pennsylvania threatened by new HUD regulations

PROJECTED LOCAL IMPACT

Federal budget offers a modest increase in LIHTC but abandons HUD's "Housing First" approach. Here's what we need to prepare for.

HOUSING INSTABILITY

- **Abandons** HUD's "Housing First" approach
- **15% reduction** from HUD's annual public housing operating fund across the region
- **Reduces** capacity for maintenance, staffing and operations
- **Discontinues** smaller FHA grants for housing counseling
- **Extends** wait times for already limited assistance programs

COMPOUNDING HARDSHIP

- **55,000 local residents** rely on both Medicaid, SNAP *and* housing assistance[1]
- **19,000** of those also rely on energy assistance[1]
- **Families** losing SNAP or Medicaid face much greater housing instability

When support systems weaken, housing is often the first place families lose stability.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The impact of housing instability extends far beyond the households directly affected.

- Schools face increased disruption as students move frequently
- Employers experience instability as workers are displaced or forced to relocate
- Homeless shelters and emergency services face rising demand
- Public systems absorb greater crisis-response burden
- Community organizations and nonprofits stretch beyond capacity

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR ECONOMY

The reduction of housing support against the backdrop of other social services cuts would reverberate across our regional economy.

- Local rental markets experience increased instability and turnover
- Small businesses lose customers displaced from nearby neighborhoods
- Workforce stability declines as housing insecurity rises
- Public systems face higher shelter, emergency, and social service costs
- Communities lose long-term residents and neighborhood continuity

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US

The Pittsburgh Foundation compiled this research to help nonprofit leaders, community organizations, philanthropic partners and public officials understand what lies ahead — and what it will mean for the people and communities we collectively serve.

How we respond to housing instability will define the future of the region we call home. **We will need to stand up to this challenge — together.**

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